REMARKS

Claims 1-43 are pending. By this response, claim 1 is amended. Reconsideration and allowance based on the above amendments and following remarks are respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-10, 12-17, 19-25, 27-32, 34-39 and 41-43 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Obara, et al. (US 2003/0037247) in view of Wing So (US 2002/0109879) and claims 1, 3, 4, 11, 12, 18, 19, 26, 27, 33, 34, 35, 40, 41 and 43 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Obara in view of Chang, et al. (US 6,160,651). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Obara teaches a computer system that sends encrypted data between a local system and a remote system. A host computer controls the reading, writing and copying of the data between the local and remote systems. Upon command, data within the disk drive (5a) of the local system (9) is placed in a shared memory where it is retrieved by the remote system (10) and placed in a disk drive (5b) of the remote system. Thus, the remote system includes a copy of the data. This data can be sent using a wide area network (WAN) between a local and remote system. See paragraphs 62 through 79.

Obara teaches a local and remote system that each have a single storage device. The single storage device contains the entirety of stored data. Thus, the data used during operation of the local and remote systems is stored along with the copy data in the same storage device. Therefore, if, for example, the

remote system (10) which has stored a copy of the data from the local system (9) has a failure during operation, the operational and stored copy data can be lost.

In contrast, embodiments of the present invention provide an administrative node processor module which includes its own storage database and also a separate persistent storage module. The persistent storage module contains a copy of the administered information of one or more nodes stored within the storage database of the administrative module of the respective nodes and used by the storage module during operation by the respective nodes. Thus, if the administrative module fails or must be replaced, the administrative information of the various nodes is not lost, since the database is stored in the persistent storage module and can be obtained therefrom.

Further, embodiments of the present invention includes various nodes that do not include a persistent storage module. The persistent storage module contained in a first node becomes associated with a second node that does not contain a persistent storage module and the persistent storage module is used by the second node for storing administration information. In another embodiment a query is sent by a node containing a persistent storage module through the system to determine which nodes have become associated with the persistent storage module it contains.

Furthermore, in another embodiment of the present invention, the first node obtains the administrative information for a second node and performs the administrative operation for both the first and second nodes.

Obara does not teach or suggest the use of a persistent storage module as taught in the present invention. Further, Obara fails to teach or suggest a node associating itself with a persistent storage module of a second node. Obara also fails to teach or suggest a node containing a persistent storage module sending a query through the system to determine which nodes have associated itself with its persistent storage module. Finally, Obara fails to teach a node obtaining administrative information for a second node and performing the administration information for both the first and second nodes.

Thus, Obara fails to teach or suggest, *inter alia*, a first node including a first administration node processor module, the first administrative node processor module including a database that stores administrative information used during operation of the first node for performing administrative functions, and a persistent storage module for storing a copy of the administrative information; a second node including a second administrative node processor module, the second administrative node processor module including a database that stores administrative information used during operation of the second node for performing administrative functions; and an optical signal channel for carrying a copy of the administrative information from the second

node to the first node for storage and the persistent storage module located in the first node, as recited in claim 1.

Also, Obara fails to teach or suggest, *inter alia*, a first node including an administrative node processor module for performing administrative functions, the administrative processor module having a persistent storage memory portion associated with a second node for storing administrative information of the second node, as recited in claim 12.

Obara also fails to teach or suggest, *inter alia*, a first node including an administrative node processor module for performing administrative functions for the first node and a second node, as recited in claim 19.

Obara also fails to teach or suggest, *inter alia*, a first node receiving administration information from a second node, the first node storing the received administrative information from the second node in a persistent storage memory portion located in the first node, the first node performing administrative functions for the second node, as recited in claim 27.

Obara fails to teach or suggest, *inter alia*, a first node sending a query to one or more of the other nodes a network via an optical signal channel...the first node determining which of the other network nodes has a persistent storage memory associated with the first node, as recited in claim 34.

Obara also fails to teach or suggest, *inter alia*, sending administrative information from a first node to another network node for storage in the persistent storage memory in the other network node; receiving the

administrative information from the first node at the other network node and storing the administrative information from the first node in the persistent storage memory in the other network node, as recited in claim 35.

Obara also fails to teach or suggest, *inter alia*, means for storing the received administration information from the second node in a persistent storage memory located in the first node and means for performing administration functions for the second node by the first node, as recited in claim 41.

Obara also fails to teach or suggest, *inter alia*, means for sending a query from a first node to one or more of the other nodes in the network and means for determining by the first node which of the other network nodes has a persistent storage memory associated with the first node, as recited in claim 42.

Obara also fails to teach or suggest, *inter alia*, means for sending administrative information from a first node to another network node for storage in the persistent storage memory and the other network node; means for receiving the administrative information from the first node and means for storing the administrative information from the first node in the persistent storage memory in the other network node, as recited in claim 43.

Further, Wing So and Chang do not make up for the above noted deficiencies of Obara. Wing So and Chang have been provided to teach

communication via optical channels. They do not teach or suggest the above noted features absent in Obara.

Therefore, in view of the above, applicants respectfully submit that the combination of Obara with either Wing So or Chang fail to teach each and every feature of the invention as required. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

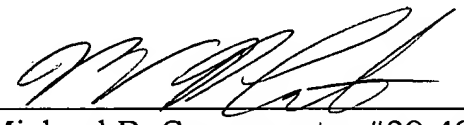
CONCLUSION

For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-43 are distinguishable over the cited art. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Chad J. Billings (Reg. No. 48,917) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By 
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Attachment(s)